

Port Orford-Langlois School District 2CJ

Code: INB
Adopted: 9/20/21
Orig. Code(s): INB

Studying Controversial Issues

The Board supports the inclusion of controversial issues as part of students' education. The presentation and discussion of controversial issues will be informative. The development of ability to meet issues without prejudice and to withhold judgments while facts are being collected, assembled and weighed and to see relationships before drawing inferences or conclusions are among the most valuable outcomes of a free educational system.

Teachers will present an overall view of controversial issues and will guard against giving personal opinions until students have an opportunity to:

1. Find, collect and assemble factual material on the subject;
2. Interpret the data without prejudice;
3. Reconsider assumptions and claims and to reach their own conclusions.

By refraining from expressing personal views before and during the period of research and study, the teacher will encourage students to search after truth and to think for themselves.

Whenever a teacher elects to use a guest speaker or media materials to present controversial information, prior approval must be granted by the building administrator.

~~It is the teacher's right to select issues for study and discussion which contribute to the attainment of course objectives as per adopted state standards and to make available to student's materials concerning the various aspects of the issues. Teachers have the right to express their own viewpoints and opinions; however, they do not have the right to indoctrinate students. Teachers shall exercise their rights fairly, responsibly and in a non-disruptive manner.~~

~~Materials that are presented and discussed shall be relevant to the course content, the maturity level of the students and in accordance with the curriculum program of the district. Teachers who are bringing outside people for classroom discussion must have prior approval by the building administrator seventy-two (72) hours in advance of the visitation. Disagreements between an administrator and a teacher regarding teaching content or methodology shall be first referred to the Superintendent. Should the Superintendent be unable to resolve the matter, the issue may then be referred to the board.~~

Before beginning a class in the study of an obviously controversial topic, a teacher will discuss with the **principal**:~~building administrator:~~

1. Its appropriateness to the course;
2. Its appropriateness for the students' maturity level;

3. The approach to instruction;
4. The instructional materials to be used.

END OF POLICY

Legal Reference(s):

[ORS 336.067](#)

[OAR 581-021-0009](#)

U.S. CONST. amend. I.

OR. CONST., art. I.